

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Update on Cost and Schedule Reporting

This presentation will briefly summarize the range of cost and schedule reports provided by NASA to Congress and the White House (OMB). Changes in reporting requirements since the 2008 PM Conference are highlighted. These include additional focus on projects in formulation, contract costs, and portfolio assessments.

Linkages between cost and schedule reporting, the budget (PPBE) process, and NASA's processes for program and project management will be illustrated. Included will be a description of how NASA has standardized and streamlined the collection of cost and schedule data into a single quarterly data call, and how this data call is being integrated into the data collected for the Baseline Performance Reviews (BPR) conducted by the Agency Program Management Council.

Participants will be able to 'walk-through' the process of developing baselines for OMB and Congressional reporting and learn how changes in cost or schedule from these baselines are assessed. Projects will also learn what additional analysis and reporting are required if specific cost or schedule thresholds are exceeded, along with strategies for developing these additional reports.

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Mary Beth Zimmerman is a program analyst in the Strategic Investments Division (SID) of NASA's Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation. Ms. Zimmerman is currently focused on analysis of Agency performance at the portfolio level and provides updated assessments of cross-cutting, non-technical issues which affect program and project performance. She developed the methodology used by the Agency to standardize its reporting of project cost and schedule performance and helped develop the criteria for on-going Agency assessments of program and project performance. Previously, Mary Beth served as the SID analyst for the Agency's science portfolio.

Prior to joining NASA in 2004, Ms. Zimmerman served as lead analyst for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office, at the US Department of Energy (DOE), where she provided analysis of the benefits of research and development investments in advanced technologies. While at DOE, Mary Beth provided analysis of climate change mitigation, strategies, including development of advanced technologies and energy systems. Her work on climate change policies at DOE followed on economic analyses undertaken at the Alliance to Save Energy, the National Governors' Association, and Resources for the Future. Ms. Zimmerman received her MA in Economics, with a specialization in Industrial Organization from the American University.